

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RO, US
SUBJ: ROMANIAN COMMENTARY ON PRESIDENTIAL
INAUGURATION
REF: 76 BUCHAREST 6554; BUCHAREST 427

1. SUMMARY. SCINTEIA (JANUARY 22, 1977) CARRIES
BACK-PAGE EDITORIAL ON "INAUGURATION OF NEW U.S.
PRESIDENT", SIGNED BY V. ALEXANDRESCU, THE COLLECTIVE
PSEUDONYM USED TO DENOTE AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLES OF
SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. ARTICLE EXPRESSES ROMANIAN
SATISFACTION WITH MANY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY
STATEMENTS AND NOTES EXISTING POSSIBILITIES FOR
FURTHER EXPANSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. IT IS
FIRST ARTICLE OF ITS KIND WE CAN RECALL ON OCCASION
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OF A U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ARTICLE COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON SERIES OF "CONSTRUCTIVE
APPROACHES" TAKEN BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS CAMPAIGN
AND MORE RECENT STATEMENTS, CITING IN PARTICULAR HIS
POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON DISARMAMENT, DETENTE, CSCE AND
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND HIS STATED WILLINGNESS TO CON-

TINUE TO DEVELOP RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.
IT ALSO APPLAUDS THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION
TO PRACTICE OF "DOMINATION AND DICTAGE" IN INTER-
NATIONAL LIFE, AS WELL AS RECOGNITION THAT SOLUTION TO
TODAY'S PROBLEMS CALLS
FOR WIDEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION
OF STATES.

3. ARTICLE QUOTES FROM CEAUSESCU'S MESSAGES TO THE
PRESIDENT (REFTELS) NOTING "LARGE" EXISTING POSSIBILITIES
TO DIVERSIFY AND DEEPEN PRESENT BILATERAL RELATIONS,
BASED ON ROMANIA'S WELL-KNOWN PRINCIPLES. IT CITES
HIGH-LEVEL VISITS, AND SPECIFICALLY PRESIDENTIAL VISITS,
AS CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS AND
MENTIONS 1973 BILATERAL DECLARATIONS AS FORMING
JURIDICAL-POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF PRESENT RELATIONSHIP.
RECENTLY SIGNED LONG TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT IS ALSO MENTIONED,
BUT 1975 TRADE AGREEMENT INCORPORATING JACKSON-
VANIK AMENDMENT IS CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE.
(COMMENT: JANUARY 16 SCINTEIA CARRIED SMALL ITEM
TO EFFECT THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD ASKED CONGRESS
TO REPEAL JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT.) ARTICLE ALSO
CITES ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN U.S. BICENTENNIAL
AND U.S. INTEREST IN THIS YEAR'S ROMANIAN CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS AS EXAMPLES OF CULTURAL COOPERATION. IT
ENDS WITH HOPE THAT THE RATIONAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE
POSITIONS ENUNCIATED BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL
FIND A FAITHFUL AND CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION.
ROMANIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF INAUGURAL WAS OTHERWISE ROUTINE.
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4. COMMENT: SCINTEIA EDITORIAL IS CLEAREST PUBLIC
SIGNAL YET SENT BY GOR OF ITS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AND
EVEN STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION.
WHILE ADMITTEDLY HIGHLY SELECTIVE IN ITS APPROACH, FOR
EXAMPLE THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IT IS FIRST SUCH ARTICLE WHICH WE
CAN RECALL FOR AN INAUGURAL. GOR UNDOUBTEDLY HOPES
IT WILL 1) PROVIDE BALANCE TO "RAPPROCHEMENT"
WITH THE SOVIETS AND 2) PERHAPS COMPENSATE FOR ITS CLEAR
PRE-ELECTION EXPECTATION THAT PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE
REELECTED. FAMILIAR EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS
WILL DO LITTLE TO CALM WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN LOCAL
DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES
THAT AN EARLY VISIT BY CEAUSESCU
TO WASHINGTON IS IN THE

CARDS. WITHIN LAST TWO
WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED ON THIS SUBJECT BY

EVERY EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSION IN TOWN.
BARNES

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